

COMMENTS AND ARGUMENTS

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-4 and 7-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Heider et al. (US 4,733,876). This rejection is traversed for the reasons set forth below.

In the Final Office Action, it is suggested that the angled ribs of Heider form the intermediate ribbing structure as recited since the angled ribs are intermediate the vertically extending plate that has the two mounting holes and the horizontally extending plate.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the intermediate ribbed portion is comprised of two parallel plates with the ribs between the intermediate plates. This language is similar to the language of cancelled claim 8. While Heider discloses a pair of parallel plates (the actual retainer plate and the horizontal bottom plate of mounting plate 34), there are no ribs located between these two plates. All the ribbing of the Heider is located outward of the parallel plates.

In light of the amendments to the claims, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims as being anticipated by Heider et al. be withdrawn.

Regarding newly submitted claim 9, it is recited that the retainer is a unitary formed article comprising three distinct elements: a bead seating means for securing the sleeve end, mounting means for mounting the air spring to a moveable part, and an intermediate ribbed reinforcement structure located between the bead seating means and the mounting means. The claimed air spring is patentably distinct from Heider in that Heider fails to disclose a retainer comprising all three of these elements unitarily formed. The mounting means of Heider is separately formed and secured to the retainer by bolts (see Fig 6). Additionally, it is the mounting means of Heider that has ribs; no portion of the upper retainer structure located beneath the mounting means of Heider is ribbed as recited in claim 9.

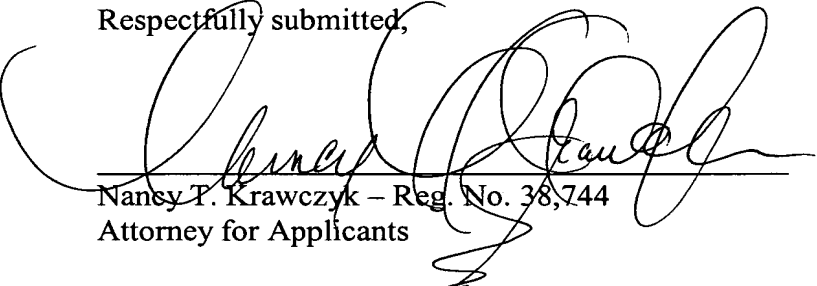
35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 5-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heider et al. (US 4,733,876) in view of Koshcinat et al. (US 4,890,823). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons set forth below.

In light of the amendments to the claims, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims as being obvious over Heider et al. in view of Koshcinat et al. be withdrawn.

In light of the amendment and the arguments set forth, Applicant believes the claims now pending in the subject patent application are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate allowability of all the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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